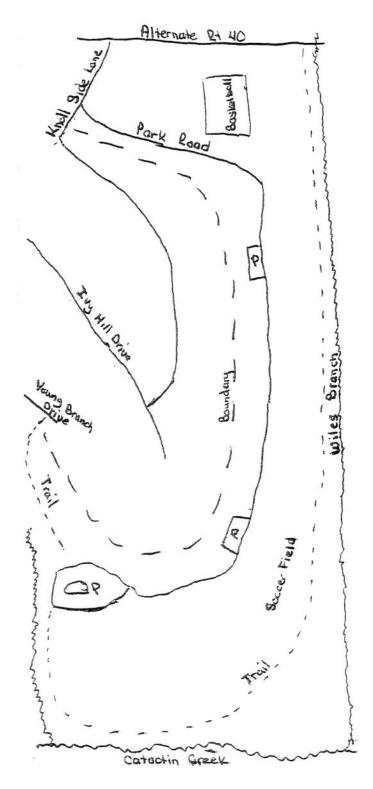
Wiles Branch Park Trail

By Marylou Stone



Are you looking for a trail that the whole family can walk? This is an easy trail that is tucked into Wiles Branch Park in Middletown, Maryland. To locate the Park take Alternate Route 40 to Middletown. Continue until you are almost out of Middletown. On the west side of town look for Knoll Side Lane and turn left. Then make an immediate left into the park. Take the park road to the very back of the park.

The trail starts at the end of this parking lot and goes in two directions. The section of the trail that parallels the park road and heads back towards the park entrance is one mile round trip. This section is very pleasant and also parallels the creek. The first part of this section of trail is paved and then becomes broken pavement.

The second section also starts at the back parking lot. It is paved and heads into a wooded area that in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile ends at Young Branch Drive. A return trip on this section would be $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Put the two together and you have walked $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

I walked this trail on a hot early summer morning. I spotted a Blue Heron, Northern Cardinals, Tufted Titmouse, Indigo Bunting, and many Chipping Sparrows. I also spotted one deer trying to hide behind a tree. Pay attention to the small wetlands along the trail. I spotted many baby frogs hopping across the trail.